

You may have wondered...

Q: Why have a sign ordinance?

A: The City of Tigard strives to maintain an attractive appearance in our community. Sign regulations also serve to protect the health, safety, property, and welfare of the public.

Q: How long has the sign ordinance been in effect?

A: The sign ordinance was originally adopted by the City Council on November 9th, 1983.

Q: Who created the sign criteria for the ordinance?

A: A diverse committee including citizens and business owners, who worked diligently to provide numerous sign options, yet eliminate clutter and distractions.

Q: Is Tigard's sign ordinance stricter than other local sign ordinances?

A: No, most other nearby cities have very similar ordinances.

Q: How can I advertise if I can't have signs?

A: You CAN have signs; they just need to meet the sign ordinance criteria. If you are unsure about if your sign idea is legal, ask us.

Q: Are garage sale and real estate signs exempt?

A: No, the sign ordinance does not discriminate based on sign content or message.

Q: Does this brochure include everything I need to know?

A: No, this brochure is intended as a basic reference guideline only. The sign ordinance has too much information to condense thoroughly and accurately into a brochure.

Q: Where can I find the entire sign ordinance?

A: www.tigard-or.gov

Q: What if I don't follow the sign ordinance?

A: Signs not meeting ordinance regulations are subject to removal and/or court citation for the responsible parties. Fines are calculated per day, per sign. For "first time offenders" they start at \$250, and increase with each repeat violation.

Q: What about the other signs I see in Tigard?

A: Signs are prevalent in Tigard. Many are legal and have permits. Some are illegal and are already, or will soon be, facing court action.

Q: Where do I apply for sign permits?

A: The City of Tigard Permit Center.



Quick Tips

- Always check with the city before displaying outdoor marketing of any kind.
- Before modifying a sign, call to see if the changes are affected by permit and zone regulations.
- Keeping your signage legal with temporary or permanent sign permits is not expensive.
- Most sign permit applications can be completed, and a permit issued, in only 15 minutes.
- Three temporary sign permits may be obtained per calendar year, starting every January 1.
- Permits for permanent signs are valid for the unchanged "life" of the sign.
- Permits for temporary signs are valid for thirty consecutive days except permits for balloons, which are valid for ten days.
- A-boards and lawn signs in residential zones are acceptable without a permit from 8am to 6pm only.
- A-boards and lawn signs in all other zones require temporary permits.
- Signs are never allowed in the public right of way. There is no permit or "free day" to allow such.



City of Tigard

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City of Tigard

Show Me A Sign



*A helpful guide for those
interested in displaying signs
and outdoor marketing in the
City of Tigard.*

Common Sign Related Terminology

- **A-Board:** a temporary sign that is double faced, rigid, and with or without hinges, "legs", "feet", etc.
- **Balloon:** a temporary sign, inflatable displays include "children's" balloons, hot and cold air balloons, blimps, etc.
- **Banner:** a temporary sign made of non-rigid material with no enclosing framework. Usually rectangular and erected in a manner that restricts movement for ease in viewing.
- **Face of a Building:** All surfaces of one wall or tenant space. The "outline" of the wall.
- **Flag:** temporary signs, non-rigid material usually erected on a single pole or string to allow flight, fluctuation, or free movement on one or more sides. *Pennants and multiple flag displays are prohibited.
- **Freestanding Sign:** a sign intended to remain for a permanent or indefinite length of time and is erected or mounted on a freestanding frame, structure, post or pole not attached to a building.
- **Lawn Sign:** a temporary sign of diminutive size displayed on private property for a specific limited time. Must not be erected, constructed, or contain a structure or support system. Shall be quickly and easily removed, and supported exclusively by a single pole similar to a common garden stake. Lawn signs are generally 1x1, 1x2, or 2x2. *In residential zones only, lawn signs may also be A-board signs.
- **Parcel:** a piece of land with defined borders forming a tax-lot.
- **Permanent:** Remaining in the same state or place without apparent change for an indefinite amount of time.
- **Permanent signs:** A sign that is not removed or changed for an undetermined amount of time. May include wall signs, reader boards, monument signs, freestanding signs, etc. which all require permits.
- **Roof signs:** signs directly on, or projecting above the roofline of a structure. *Roof signs are prohibited.
- **Sign:** any materials placed or constructed primarily to convey a message or other display, attract attention, or advertise in any other form, which can be viewed from the right of way, another property, or the air.
- **Temporary:** Intended, used, lasting, existing or present for a short, specific, and limited time.
- **Temporary sign:** a variety of conditionally permitted signs for specified and limited amounts of time. May include lawn signs, A-boards, banners, balloons, and banner flags.
- **Wall sign:** a permanent sign secured parallel to a wall by a rigid, non-mobile frame that fully encloses the entire sign and text.



SIGNS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE RIGHT OF WAY

- The right of way (ROW) includes but is not limited to streets, sidewalks, medians, planter strips, drainage ditches, private and public access ways, and roadsides.
- ROW can extend anywhere from 0 to 10 feet back from where the street or sidewalk ends.
- A guideline for finding ROW is utility poles, utility vaults, or traffic signs. Anything between those and the street is ROW. Anything from the markers back towards private property may be out of the ROW.
- The only way to find ROW for specific locations is to look at engineering "as built drawings" for that area.
- There is no permit or exception to allow signs in the ROW.*
- All signs must be displayed on PRIVATE PROPERTY ONLY.
- Signs over three feet in height also cannot be in the visual clearance triangle.

Right of Way Guideline Map

